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before birth. He exhibited two perfectly developed young, which he had taken from the mother on the 30th of November last; in these the spines were each covered at the point with a small knob of cartilage, fastened by straps of the same material, passing down one on each of the three sides of each spine, in such a manner as evidently to become easily detached at birth, thus allowing the little animal to commence life effectively armed. He mentioned that the female in question contained a large number of eggs, in various states of development, in addition to the two fully-formed young; and he took occasion to remark, that this fish is so destructive to herrings that fishermen look on it with abhorrence: in this he thought they were wrong, for he considers that some of the success of fishing with driving nets is to be attributed to the headlong haste with which shoals of herrings go along when pursued by enormous packs of dog-fishes, and that thus they serve man rather than injure him. Fishermen, however, destroy the dog-fish whenever it falls into their power, as they did the specimen which gave occasion to this notice.

Dr. Allman mentioned an analogous fact in the ova of *Cristatella mucedo*.

Rev. N. J. Halpin commenced the reading of a paper on some passages in the life of Shakspeare.

Rev. Dr. Drummond presented to the Museum an ancient Ogham inscription, on the part of Francis W. Jennings, Esq.

Mr. Robert Mallet presented a drawing of a silver antique ring found in Ireland, and presented to the British Museum by Lord Enniskillen, containing an inscription in characters resembling Chinese.

DONATIONS.

Proceedings connected with the magnetical and meteorological Conference, held at Cambridge, in June, 1845. Presented by the Association.

The Laws of the Tides on the Coast of Ireland, as inferred from observations made in connexion with the Ordnance Survey of Ireland. By G. B. Airy, Esq. F.R.S.&c. Presented by the Author.

Transactions of the Geological Society of London. Second Series, Vol. VII. Parts 1 and 2. Presented by the Society.

On the Heat of Vapours. By Sir J. W. Lubbock. Presented by the Author.

Philosophical Transactions for the Year 1845. Part 1. Presented by the Royal Society.

Réduction of the Greenwich Observations of Planets, from 1750 to 1830. Greenwich Astronomical Observations, for 1843. Presented by the Royal Society.

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society. No. XVI. Part 1. 1845. Presented by the Society.

Dramatic Sketches, and other Poems. By the Rev. James Wills, M.R. I. A. Presented by the Author.

Eleventh Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, with Appendices, for 1845. Presented by the Commissioners.

The Repeal Dictionary. Part 1. By John O'Connell, Esq. M. P. Presented by the Author.

Inaugural Address to the Members of the Temperance Institute in Cork. By Edward Kinnealy, Esq. Presented by the Author.

An old Dutch Tobacco Box, found near Newmarket, County of Clare. Presented by Sir Lucius O'Brien, Bart.

Vertical Sections of the Geological Survey of Great Britain. Sheet No. 9. Presented by the Chief Commissioners of Woods and Land Revenues, on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

Results of the Mackerstoun Observations. No. I. Presented by J. Allan Broun, Esq.